

1324

out of order
- THE WEEKLY FREE NO-THEME 'ZINE-

#0005 - VIII - IX - MCCC

Intro

Leaving 1324 territory

Don't worry about the title, I'm just referencing the issue number of the current zine. An issue that features some of *your* short films, tells you more about the history of the newspaper vending machine (an invention for which historical information was unexpectedly hard to find!), the *Sinhala* script, lip smackers which smell and taste like soda and much more. If you like what you're reading, but missed one or more of the previous four issues of 1324, make sure to download them from either our [Twitter channel](#) or [web-site](#). Happy reading & 'til next week!

Ivenne Mecking,
Editor 1324 - Out Of Order

Weather

North West Three



Angles
France
28 °C / 82 °F



Mary
Turkmenistan
31 °C / 88 °F



Sanjaranda
Tanzania
29 °C / 84 °F

Out Now

Don't bother, currently out of order:



My goodness, this is a poor showing. Coke? No. Cherry pop? Nope. Water? No. Apparently the only thing still working is the ice dispenser. If you're visiting New Orleans: better bring your own drinks. Shot by: [Jeramey Jannene](#).

Go Dutch

In one word a week

'Fietsen' (verb/noun)
pronounce: feet-sun

This word translates to 'to cycle' or is the plural of bicycle

In a sentence

Ze zijn momenteel aan het fietsen
They are currently cycling

Dit zijn twee fietsen / These are two bicycles

Also...

Ik fiets (I'm cycling), jij fietst (you're cycling), hij/zij fietst (he/she's cycling), zij fietsen (they're cycling)



Little known facts

Sinhala script

is used is one of the *Brahmic* scripts (writing systems used in South-east Asia) and the written form of Sinhalese, which is an Indo-Aryan language primarily spoken by the Sinhalese people of Sri Lanka. The oldest Sinhala inscriptions found are from the third to second century BCE following the arrival of Buddhism in Sri Lanka. It's written from left to right and the letters are ordered into two sets. The core set of letters forms the *śuddha simhala* alphabet (Pure Sinhala), which is a subset of the *miśra simhala* alphabet (Mixed Sinhala). Sinhala had special symbols to represent numerals, which were in use until the beginning of the 19th century. This system is now superseded by *Hindu-Arabic* numeral system. A sample:

Our zine's name in *Sinhala Illakkam*. There was another script called *Sinhala Lith Illakkam* which was primarily used for writing horoscopes(!).



Trivia

Plenty of questions. Can you come up with the answers?

- [01] Where were most *Love Parade* festivals held?
- [02] What's the mascot for the Android operating system?
- [03] Name two ingredients of cornflakes apart from corn.
- [04] In which country could you find the *Pebble Beach* golf court?
- [05] Who played the lead role in the '89 movie *Jumpin' Jack Flash*?
- [06] The car manufacturer *Kia* was found in which country?
- [07] Was the *Atari Jaguar* launched before or after the *Lynx*?
- [08] What is the symbol for *Uranium* on the periodic table?
- [09] In which city would Eurovision 2020 have taken place?
- [10] What type of device was the *HTC One X*?
- [11] For what reason is washing your hair with an egg beneficial?
- [12] Which animal product was used in early corsets?
- [13] True or false: lettuce is a plant of the daisy family
- [14] Where could you find the *table mountain*?
- [15] What do the letters *CE* (or *AC*) on a calculator stand for?

Answers on page four.

From the Machine: Newspapers

Extra! Extra! Newspapers being sold from machines...for now

Personally I haven't seen many machines from which you could buy newspapers. I recall seeing one on a station in the late '80's or early 90's, but that was about it. I did see them frequently appear on American TV shows (especially those that played in New York), so they were clearly rather popular over there. Time to find out a little more about them! Strangely enough, it's hard to find much information about these particular vending machines, which might have to do with the fact a search for 'newspaper vending machine' mostly yielded information about the printing press. Wikipedia just tells us 'The coin operated newspaper vending machine was invented in California, USA in 1947 by a man called *George Thiemeyer Hemmeter*. His 'newspaper rack' was able to be used with one hand, and took around 30 seconds to dispense a paper.' Newspaper actually costs around four cents(!) these days, so it would just handle a few coins at a time. I know for a fact newspaper vending machines were/are used all over the world (Germany, Japan), but how many and where? There was little to find.

Forty years of no news?

The information skips forward forty(!) years and tells us that 'by 1987, over one million machines had been distributed'. According to the newspaper association of America around 46% of 'single sale' newspapers were sold from 'newspaper boxes' (vending machines) in 1996, but this dropped to only 20% in 2014.

The newspaper vending machines began to lose popularity as many newspapers switched to online distribution, and as newspaper prices rose; as most vending machines are completely mechanical with no moving parts, few of them have paper currency validators which need some kind of electrical power to work, requiring multiple quarters or dollar coins to be inserted. This is especially true for Sunday newspapers (for example, the Sunday New York Times has a price of \$6 nationally and requires a whopping 24 quarters to be put into the vending machine), which see machines go unfilled by some papers due to the bulk of those editions reducing the number of copies that can possibly be sold.

Victimized by a machine

The machines weren't exactly known for their reliability either, many of them failed to open, even after inserting the right amount of money (you can really picture the situation of buying a Sunday Times and after -finally- inserting all 24 quarters the box fails to open). In 2008 a small L.A. news station even managed to create a nearly [nine minute long news item](#) titled 'Unarmed Robbery' simply about one of the L.A. Times vending machines malfunctioning. They ended their broadcast with the unintentionally funny question 'Have you been

victimized by machines?'. For the record: yes, I'm quite sure that I have. Anyway, by 2009, various artists and inventors had begun working on re-purposing the boxes. A man from Birmingham (USA), fitted a 17" monitor inside which he had connected to a *Mac Mini*, which in turn was connected to the newspaper section of iTunes. Each morning the computer would launch a script triggered by an alarm. While cueing up a music playlist, the script automatically gathered images, cropped them in half and launched a slideshow. No quarters were needed.

Past Papers

Many articles have been written around the question 'Will newspapers still exist in the future?'. In 2013 the *Center for the Digital future* predicted that most printed newspapers had five years of life left, but in 2018 (yes, five years later) concluded 'Their survival turns out to be more delayed than we thought.'. In short: no one really knows. There's less doubt about the future of the newspaper vending machine. It's likely to join the ranks of phone booths and other obsolete technology within the next ten years, so if you want to 'experience' a unit, better start saving those quarters/pennies/cents and open the door one more time before it shuts forever.

Next week: is it a game, a vending machine, a scam or all three? The history of the most notorious machine on the fair: the *crane*.

Smack those Lips up

Soda pop Lip Smackers put to the test



The 5 soda smackers we put to the test. Expect some candy inspired ones in a future 1324 zine.

Pepsi Wild Cherry

Not a drink sold over here, so it was hard to compare the smacker to it. It didn't smell very much like either cherry or Pepsi but yes, it did give off a slight taste of both cherry and cola. Not overly fatty, which I like. 7/10

Coca Cola Cherry

I've probably drank more cherry coke than any other soda in my life so this should've been right up my street. Maybe not. Its smell was a LOT stronger than the *Pepsi Wild Cherry* one, but it didn't really smell of cherry coke, it smelled more like cinnamon, actually. It gave off quite a red hue. It was pleasant enough, but cherry coke? Hardly.

6.5/10 (+1 if you like red lips)

Coca cola

There's a regular coke smacker too. This did have the generic cola smell/flavour of cola flavoured sweets (like cola bottles or those freezer pops) and wasn't too bad. Bit strange that its brown, but hey. 7/10

Sprite

Both cherry soda smackers were red, so this was green, right? Wrong. It's (rather sensibly) white. It's been ages since I've last had a can of Sprite, but I'm sure I would've recognized the smell or taste of it if the smackers had. It sort of did because there was definitely a tang of lemon to it. If you like citrus fruits, this ain't bad. 7.5/10

Fanta

Out of the five this smacker smelled and tasted the most like the soda it was based on. Perhaps because orange is easier to emulate. Again, if you like citrus fruits this is a winner. It's orange, so it slightly brightens your lips too. 8/10

Short Films

1324 features YOUR films

Sometimes sitting through a multimillion blockbuster with a runtime of one and a half or two hours just doesn't seem very appealing. You don't want to 'condemn' yourself to sitting on the couch for that period of time. Sounds familiar, hmm? Well, there IS a reason Youtube became so big (of course, the fact that you often have to pay quite a bit of money to see a movie, whereas Youtube is still free is another factor). It's not just short videos of cats looking grumpy, people playing video games in record time or children pouring bowls of spaghetti bolognese over their heads, though. You see, apart from all the regular nonsense, Youtube is a great platform for independent film projects. This week, **1324** features three short films you just might have missed which can be seen for free on the platform. Grab a handful of popcorn and lets go!

A Switch (2020)

A SWITCH

Written & Directed by: Graham Woods
Soundtrack/Score by: Chris Bullock
Runtime: approx. 21 minutes

The tagline of this short movie (posted under Graham's *Jaws19* monniker) is 'If you had the chance, would you switch?' and it doesn't take long for the first switch to appear. A young woman is making a cup of tea (hey, it's a British film, it's the law) and can be seen mourning the loss of her girlfriend. A moment later she gets a visit from a woman she doesn't know, but who comes bearing both a gift and a rather special proposition... What that is you'll have to find out for yourself, but we *can* say it's something that will certainly make you think! The minimalist soundtrack really helps to set the mood and keeps you interested while the story unfolds at a relatively slow pace. The acting is good, the camera work and the (minimal) SFX are well done and there were plenty of clever ideas that show how much thought was put into the making of it. Consider us switched ON.

[\[A Switch on Youtube\]](#)

Clanker Man (2017)



Directed by: Ben Steiner
Soundtrack/Score by: Virgil Howe
Runtime: approx. 10 minutes

'Reality doesn't happen by itself. Terry Lothian works tirelessly to maintain the background details that we all take for granted. But with his department feeling the pinch of austerity cutbacks, it's not just the fabric of reality that's starting to unravel.' This is the promotional text for a short movie (co)written by Eli Silverman (who also takes on the role of Terry). The idea for the movie was born when he was kept awake one night by bangs and shouts from somewhere nearby and started to wonder if the people were making the noise for any other purpose than to annoy him. We've probably all been there at one point or another, but Eli Silverman and co-writer/director Ben Steiner didn't make a short film that is just relatable, but surreal and rather funny too. *Clanker Man* won multiple awards and justifiably so. There's no fancy soundtrack (apart from a quality tune during the credits) or special effects, just a rather clever idea turned into an equally good script and shot in just the right outdoor locations to complete the picture. Well worth a watch.

[\[Clanker Man on Youtube\]](#)



Clanker Man was recorded at *Palmer's Green*, London. This shot of a small doll floating in the *New River* is, according to the editor of this zine, one of the most effective in the film. But hey, what does she know? I was told she can regularly be seen writing overly long captions just to fill a bit of white space. Pathetic.

Relics (2016)



Directed by: Howard Jackson
Soundtrack by: Vortigern Caperus
Runtime: approx. 16 minutes

Howard Jackson wrote, edited *and* produced this sixteen minute short film. No mean feat, because *Relics* is pretty impressive! Howard himself describes it as 'a short student sci-fi film about a man who discovers a scientist on the run and a stolen relic with mysterious powers'. I'll be honest, I'm not a big sci-fi fan myself, but I certainly didn't mind watching it twice to write this article. A job well done, I reckon. Of the three films featured here this one definitely uses the most special effects, but none of it seems out of place. We reckon there was certainly some extra attention paid to the lighting, which really adds to the mystery. For a film that was probably produced with a tiny budget, the backdrops, camera shots and props are remarkable, as is the finale. We were left with plenty of questions after watching it, but that really ain't a bad thing. The soundtrack certainly is good (and really keeps your attention up), but I'm not sure about the levels it's played at. Bonus points for the track that runs during the ending credits (it's by a band called *Dark Revenant*). Acting is generally OK, but the lead role (played by *Imani Khiry*) certainly is well above par. Nice one!

[\[Relics on Youtube\]](#)

1324's CALLING YOU - GET IN ORDER!

We want to feature more of YOUR project in future editions of **1324** zine.

So if you've: produced a short film, recorded an album, started a podcast, wrote a book, coded a game or created a work of art? Don't wait: [Write in!](#) We'll gladly feature you. Also: help us grow by [spreading the word](#) (and the zines themselves). Thanks!

FREE: Lollipops

Please enter and save our teeth

So, you've read the article in the last zine and are thinking 'I wouldn't mind a few Chupa Chups lollipops! Good, then please send in your favorite lollipop flavour to free@1324.online and make sure you do so by september 12. We're giving away multiple free 'sample kits', including a large logo-shaped container.



P's in a Pod

Everything podcast

This week's featured podcast is called *Between you and Me*.

Podcast description:

"One Marillion-loving man and his Marillion novice wife begin an epic journey through every key Marillion release, from the Fish era, to Steve Hogarth and F.E.A.R. Whether you know your Grendel from your Go! or not, Let Paul 'Mr Biffo' Rose and Sanja be your guide'.

Topic(s):

The music by the band *Marillion* (surprise!)

Running since:

It's 'coming to all the major podcast places next week'.

[\[Between you and Me\]](#)

Quality Quote

Words to go by

'You can't stay in your corner of the Forest waiting for others to come to you. You have to go to them sometimes.'

-A.A. Milne

Catching you

Some beginner's tips to make your *Fall Guys* life easier

Getting started with Fall Guys? Here's a few tips:

- Don't jump if you don't need to. It will only increase the chance you'll topple over.
- 'Longer' skins such as the (soda can) don't have a lower point of gravity and make you easier to spot. Result.
- In *Gatecrash*: Don't head for the first open door if you're not on the front two rows at the start.
- In *Slimb Climb*: This is the perfect round to lose a lot of competition. Take it slowly. Steer towards the right side on the on the conveyors with the sliding pillars and pass them all on the right.
- In *Fall Ball*: The perfect opportunity to get the ball heading towards the goal is when it is dropped from the sky after a goal. Jump at the right time and make it count.
- In *Roll Out*: Keep facing the sides instead of in the direction of the platforms. Stay on the large platforms for as long as you can by slowly walking in the opposite direction and stepping over if needed. Try to remain on the center 4 rings.
- In *SeeSaw*: You can actually jump past the left/right side of the checkpoint marker with a running jump/dive.
- In panel games (such as *Tip toe* and *Perfect match*) steer towards the 'club' to avoid being pushed into the void.
- Dive over the finish line in 100m dash style
- Got a cheater in your game? [Help is underway](#).



Trivia: The Answers

Plenty of answers. Can you come up with the questions?

- [01] Berlin
- [02] A (green) robot
- [03] Sugar, salt, barley malt extract, vitamins, minerals.
- [04] The course is situated at the village of Pebble Beach, CA, USA.
- [05] *Whoopi Goldberg* (real name: *Caryn Elaine Johnson*).
- [06] South Korea
- [07] After. The *Jaguar* was launched in '93, the first model *Lynx* in '89
- [08] U. No, U!
- [09] Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- [10] A Mobile phone
- [11] It's a good cleanser because it is high in protein but also adds volume
- [12] Whalebone
- [13] True
- [14] Cape Town, South Africa
- [15] CE stands for 'Clear Entry', AC stands for 'All clear'

See you next week?

